(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) Some of the pesticides that are allowed to be imported under OGL are listed in Serial No. 172 of Appendix 6, List 8, Part I of the Import & Export Policy, 1985—88 (Volume—I) copies of which are available in Parliament Library. Import of their formulations and other pesticides is allowed under Serial No. 219 of Appendix 3, Part A and Serial No. 46 of Appendix 2, Part B of the aforesaid Policy, under Supplementary Licensing Procedure, after taking into account indigenous availability and other related factors.

Purchase of Polyester Staple Fibre by NTC

1640. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s National Textiles Corporation had purchased a huge quantity of Polyester Staple Fibre at a very high rate recently; whereas the market rate in the month of March, 1987 was much less than that;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of there being not so much requirement, several crores were paid to this company in the month of March to lift the entire quantity; and

(c) whether it is a fact that because of the above M/s. National Textiles Corporation has lost a huge amount of money in the month of March, 1987 by way of loss of interest and payment of high prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) NTC had contracted in December, 1986 the purchase of 1000 MT of Polyester Staple fibre on competative terms.

(b) The quantity contracted was based on the assessment of requirement for the period from January, 1987 to March, 1987.

(c) No, Sir.

Per Capita availability of cloth

1641. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the per capita availability of cloth in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the per capita availability of cloth has been increasing during these years;

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to increase the per capita availability of cloth; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make more cloth of the standard varieties available to the economically weaker sections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The per capita availability of cloth (cotton, blended/mixed and 100 per cent non-cotton) during the last three years is given below:

(Figures in mtrs)

Year	Per capita availability of cloth
1984	14.452
1985	14.84
1986	15.01

(b) and (c) It will be observed from the figures indicated at (a) above that there has been increase in the availability of cloth over the years.

(d) Government has a scheme of production of controlled cloth and Janata Cloth in NTC and handloom sectors respectively. State Governments have arrangements for distribution of these varieties of cloth through fair price shops and other marketing outlets.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

1642. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases for pensions under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Scheme in respect of Freedom Fighters of Punjab who had been convicted and the cases of Morcha Gunika Bag 1922 and Kisan Morcha 1939 are yet to be finalised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in sanctioning their pensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) to (c) All applications from the State of Punjab for grant of pension under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme have since been disposed of. No Morcha—wise figures of applications are being maintained.

Attack on an employee of Mother Dairy

1643. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report concerning inaction by the police despite attack on an employee of Mother Dairy, Delhi an ex-service man now working as Driver-cum-Salesman while on duty inside the Mother Dairy; and

(b) if so, what action has been or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSOINS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On receipt of report on 6th February, 1987, a Sub-Inspector visited the hospital and collected the Medico Legal Certificate of the injured Baldev Dass. The doctor has opined that the nature of the injuries was simple. The nature of injuries being simple no cognizable offence is made out.

Handoom Rebate Scheme

1644. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA:

KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a gradual phasing out of the handloom rebate scheme;

(b) if so, whether any alternative to the present rebate system has been worked out; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to provide subsidised yarn or marketing assistance for the handloom industry; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) On account of various problems and difficulties in the implementation of the rebate scheme, the Government feels that the rebate scheme, should be phase out and the money so saved could be used for implementing other developmental schemes which are more beneficial to the handloom sector. No alternative to the rebate scheme, however, has, so far been worked out.